(c) Does not arise.

Naxal activities in States

†843. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that naxal activities in various States have increased in recent times and the concerned States have apprised the Central Government of this development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to contain naxal activities in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) The quantum of naxal violence was particularly high in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Maharashtra during 2004 as compared to 2003.

(c) The Central Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to tackle the problem of naxalism which includes (a) having a peace dialogue by the affected States, wherever feasible, with naxal groups willing to abjure violence, (b) modernization and strengthening of the State Police forces, long term deployment of Para Military forces, intensified intelligence based well-coordinated anti-naxalite operations, (c) focused attention on integrated development of the affected areas and (d) removal of socio cultural alienation of people, gearing up of public grievances redressal system and creation of Local Resistance Groups.

Prisoners in Tihar Jail

844. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of prisoners, including women, above the age of 65 years, presently lodged in various jails in the country and particularly in Tihar Jail in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that these prisoners have become very weak;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to release these aged prisoners on humanitarian grounds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.